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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York
October 31, 1967

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O Freds Ziedonis Launags

Kenneth C. Newbern, Apartment 5E, 202 West 107th Street, New York, New York, was contacted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on 10/11/67, at his residence and he advised that he is employed as a musician and teacher of music at several institutions which he identified as follows:

Opera Department of Temple University,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Third Street Music School,
55 East Third Street,
New York, New York

Young Men's Christian Association,
Eighth Avenue and West 51st Street,
New York, New York

Young Men's Hebrew Association,
Lexington Avenue and East 92nd Street,
New York, New York.

Newbern indicated that due to his various positions and the travel involved, it is rather difficult to reach him directly at his residence with the result that he utilizes the services of a telephone answering service when he is absent from his residence.

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Newbern stated that he rents rooms in his large apartment, with a maximum of three single rooms available for rental. Newbern said that he had first met Freds Ziedonis Launags, a Latvian, when Launags had answered an advertisement that he had placed in "The New York Times" about a room being available for rent. Launags had rented the room in question for \$11.00 a week, and had been a tenant in Newbern's apartment from January 20, 1966 through June 5, 1966, when he left owing Newbern about \$22.00, which amount is still unpaid.

Newbern related that Launags had made a trip to Montreal, Canada in early May, 1966, indicating to Newbern that he would return and would be seeing him shortly. Launags had kept his room in Newbern's apartment and had left most of his belongings there.

Sometime thereafter in May, 1966, after Launags had gone to Montreal, Newbern received a long distance telephone call from Launags, who requested that Newbern forward his mail at one time to the following address:

Mr. Lins Lauks,
Queen Elizabeth Hotel,
Room 1658
Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada

Newbern then sent Launags a registered letter to the above Canadian address but it was returned to him by the post office as not deliverable.

Toward late May, 1966, since Launags had not returned to his room and Newbern wanted to resolve whether Launags was going to return, Launags made a long distance telephone call to the Queen

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Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, but could not reach either Launags or Lins Lauks, as the hotel had indicated they were not registered there.

According to Newbern, about three weeks later, he met Launags on the street in New York City, as Launags was returning to Newbern's apartment, at which time Newbern indicated to Launags that, since he had been unsuccessful in contacting him and it appeared that Launags had no intention of returning, he had rented Launags room to another individual with the result that Launags would have to vacate Newbern's apartment.

After staying a couple of days in Newbern's apartment, Launags departed there with his typewriter and some of his books at which time Launags had told Newbern that he would return there later for the remainder of his personal belongings and effects which consisted of a couple of shopping bags full of clothing, along with two cardboard cartons of other personal belongings and effects. Launags also had furnished Newbern with the following forwarding address:

8528 16th Street,
Jamaica, New York

Some time passed and Launags did not return for his belongings, so Newbern sent him a registered letter to the above Jamaica, New York address, which was also returned as undeliverable.

Approximately one year ago, Newbern next tried to contact Launags through the following personal reference Launags had furnished when renting the room from Newbern, which personal reference Launags had indicated was his second cousin:

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Name: Sigurd Zarins
Business Address: In care of
Louis Jallade
597 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York
Business Telephone: PL 9-3955
Residence Address: 130 Pelham Road
New Rochelle, New York
Residence
Telephone: 914 - NE 3-6034

Newbern indicated that he had first called the business telephone of Zarins, but was informed that Zarins was no longer there. Newbern then called Zarins at his residence telephone and explained that he still had some personal belongings and effects of Launags' which Launags left behind, and Newbern inquired if he could forward these to Zarins so Zarins could see to it that Launags got these. Zarins strongly objected to Newbern's forwarding any of Launags belongings and effects to him and said that he would refuse to accept them if these were sent. Zarins said that he usually saw Launags about every two weeks and would advise Launags to return to Newbern's apartment and pick up his belongings and effects, whereupon Newbern told Zarins that if he didn't hear from Launags in a couple of weeks, he was going to dispose of his belongings and effects in the trash. By way of an explanation or excuse for his refusal to accept Launags belongings, Newbern indicated that Zarins had called Launags an "idealist" and a "fanciful person".

Newbern found Launags to have been a complex and peculiar man, who had been interested in being a newspaper correspondent and was resentful that he could not find that particular type of job.

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Newbern believed Launags had been married and was separated from his wife, as Newbern had never seen her during the time Launags had been a tenant.

According to Newbern, Launags had kept odd hours working at a Swiss Restaurant and a Czechoslovakian Restaurant, but apparently had difficulty holding on to any job, as he had lost both of those probably due to his bitter and irresponsible attitude. Newbern added, however, that Launags never appeared to be without funds and had corresponded with various individuals throughout the world.

According to Newbern, although Launags had not been friendly with any of the others who were tenants in Newbern's apartment at the same time, there had been no unusual friction or contacts between Launags and any of those other tenants either. Newbern knew of only one male visitor who had been to Launags' room in the apartment and Newbern described him as a very tall individual with dark, thin hair, who wore glasses, was courteous and polished, and spoke with a Slavic accent.

Newbern commented that he had been glad that Launags had left his apartment for good, but he still felt a responsibility about attempting to locate Launags so he could forward his belongings and effects. By the end of 1966, Newbern indicated that he considered Launags to be a missing person and had attempted to locate him by calling the FBI Office in New York and New York City Police Department, but had been unsuccessful in this endeavor, whereupon, he had thrown away the two shopping bags full of Launags' clothes that he had left behind. However, Newbern indicated that he still could not bring it upon himself to dispose of the two cardboard cartons, which contained the personal belongings and effects of Launags, such as

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photographs, correspondence, books, and pamphlets, as he thought Launags might still be interested enough to return for these personal belongings and effects.

However, after recently returning from a three month trip to Europe, Newbern decided to clear out all of Launags' belongings and effects and dispose of them. Due to the fact that a great deal of these personal belongings and effects of Launags' were correspondence, photographs and other documents in a foreign language from many countries of the world, as well as the fact that neither Launags or his personal reference apparently wanted them, a question arose in Newbern's mind that possibly Launags had been engaged in some suspicious activity or Launags might be mentally unbalanced. Newbern thereupon called the FBI to advise that he had finally disposed of Launags' personal belongings and effects by turning them over to NY T-1.

NY T-1, who was in a position to furnish reliable information, made available on October 11, 1967, the following personal belongings and effects of Launags, which NY T-1 indicated had been received from Kenneth C. Newbern, Apartment 5E, 202 West 107th Street, New York, New York, the former landlord of Launags :

Item Number and Description

Pocketbooks in the
English language

1. "A Bridge For Passing",
Pearl S. Buck.
2. "A Movable Feast",
Ernest Hemingway.
3. "Word Power Made Easy",
Norman Lewis.

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Item Number and Description

English language books

4. "Outsiders", Howard S. Becker. (with certain marginal notes in English)
 5. "The Harper Handbook (Second Edition)", (with certain handwritten notations)
 6. "Poems", Alan Dugan.
 7. "Poetry", January, 1962 edition, volume 99, #4.
 8. "Poetry", February, 1962 edition, volume 99, #5. (bearing the stamp of the Westport Library, Westport, Connecticut)
 9. "This in Which", George Oppen.
 10. "Prism International, Summer, 1964".
 11. "A Harlot's Hire", Allen Grossman.
 12. "Poetry Handbook", Babette Deutsch.
 13. "Ballads of a Bohemian", Robert W. Service.
 14. "Columbia Review", Spring 1965, Columbia College.
 15. "The Quest", Winter, 1965-1966, Volume 1, #1.
 16. Miniature Postcards of the United Nations, with handwritten notations.
- Latvian language books and pamphlets
17. Pamphlets: "Jauna Gaita", 48, 51, 54.
 18. "4. Latviesu dziesmu svetki Kanada attelos, 1965".
 19. "Labietais" #29.
 20. Picture Scenes of Riga printed in the Soviet Union.

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Item Number and Description

21. "Baznicas Kalendars", 1964.
22. "Es Saku Paldies", Ingrida Viksna. (with handwritten notations)
23. "Latvijas Preses Karalis", Janis Karklins. (with handwritten notations)
24. "Jir Onopietna Kslieta"
25. "Kalvis" (with handwritten notations)
26. "Tautas Dziesmu Koncerts" (with handwritten notations)
German Language books
27. "Lieben und Geliebt zu Werden", Dominique Lebourg.
28. "Gesprach beim Golf", Jose Ortega y Gasset.
29. "Latvian Art Exhibition", August 20-29, 1965, Barbizon Plaza Art Gallery, Avenue of Americas and West 58th Street, New York, New York. (Printed in English and Latvian).
30. One avocado colored sliding cardboard box containing assorted photographs, correspondence, clippings and notes mostly in the Latvian language as well as during the period Launags was a resident of Washington, D. C.
31. One 45 RPM Extended Play Record in the Latvian language.
32. One large map, "LIVONIAE et CVRLANDIAE".
33. One manila envelope containing assorted correspondence, clippings, notes, and greeting cards, mostly in the Latvian language with some in English, most having been during the period Launags was a resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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Item Number and Description

34. One manila envelope of the Latvian Legation, Washington, D. C., containing various correspondence and clippings in the Latvian language.
35. One clear plastic envelope containing assorted photographs, negatives, and correspondence, both handwritten and typewritten in the Latvian language, along with other handwritten and printed Latvian and English material.
36. One manila file folder captioned, "Raksti preseii" containing assorted clippings, as well as handwritten and typewritten material, mostly in the Latvian language.
37. One manila envelope containing assorted newspaper and magazine clippings and other correspondence, mostly in the Latvian language, along with the first sections of the June 8, 1959, and June 9, 1959, issues of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, "Intelligencer Journal".

NY T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 27, 1967, that about two or three weeks previously, "Cina", the Latvian Communist Party daily newspaper, published in Riga, Latvia, had carried an article relating that Freds Launags had stopped by the Soviet Mission to the United Nations (SMUN) at New York, New York, and tried to obtain help at the SMUN to enable him to visit Soviet Latvia, indicating that in return, he would write friendly articles about Soviet Latvia.

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"Cina" set out Launags' life story and accused him of collaborating with the Germans during World War II. According to "Cina", after the war, Launags had been with a group in Sweden which was trying to send refugees back to Latvia and subsequently, Launags had gone to the United States and worked for Central Intelligence Agency.

NY T-2 characterized Launags as a mentally ill and unstable individual, who had been mentally disturbed for about three or four years.

As background regarding the foregoing "Cina" story about Launags NY T-2 related that Launags' visit to the SMUN in New York City had actually taken place about one year ago, and Launags had talked with Khariy Kalninch at the SMUN and asked his assistance in visiting Soviet Latvia. According to what NY T-2 had heard, Kalninch had just listened and then told Launags to make his request through official channels.

Khariy Y. Kalninch is a CIT: 1155R
Soviet national who was
born December 26, 1928, DPCB: 26 Dec 28 Latvia, Riga
at Riga, Latvia, and who
served as an Attache at ECC: SMUN Attache
the SMUN during the periods
he was in the United States,
from September 18, 1963 through
June 29, 1965, and from August
5, 1965 through January 4, 1967,
respectively.

NY T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has identified Kalninch as being affiliated with the Committee for State Security (KGB).

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NY T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 21, 1967, that about two weeks previously a Radio Riga broadcast from Soviet Latvia had indicated that Fredis Launags had gone to the Soviet Legation in the United States and asked permission to obtain an entry visa so that he could return to Latvia. This broadcast then related that Launags had furnished biographic data indicating that he was a scoundrel who had fought against the Soviets.

NY T-4 commented that he truly felt sorry for Launags, who is a mentally sick man and who has been alienated from his family.

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